

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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TAGS: MILI, PINT, AR

SUBJ: REACTION TO YEAR-END PROMOTION LIST MODERATE

REF: USDAO BUENOS AIRES MSGS 1220 AND 1221, BOTH 6 DEC 1973

1. LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO AND ANALYSIS OF THE ELEVATION OF ADMIRAL MASSERA TO NAVY CINC AND THE RESULTING DECIMATION OF SENIOR NAVAL RANKS HAVE STRESSED TWO POINTS: FIRST, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE NAVY, WHILE VERY UNHAPPY OVER THIS ACTION, SEEMS RESIGNED TO IT AND IS NOT LIKELY TO TRY ANYTHING DRASTIC. SECONDLY, WHILE PERON DID GET RID OF MANY HOSTILE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS, HIS ACTION DOES NOT MEAN HE NOW HAS A NAVY FAVORABLE TO HIM OR HIS MOVEMENT.

2. IN A LEAD EDITORIAL SUNDAY, DEC 9, MAYORIA, A PRO-PERONIST PAPER, EXPRESSED SENTIMENTS PROBABLY CLOSE TO THE MOVEMENT'S THINKING, IF INDEED NOT DIRECTLY PLANTED BY IT. ACCORDING TO MAYORIA, WHILE ALL THREE SERVICES CONTAIN MEN WHOSE FIXED IDEAS BLIND THEM TO THE NEW HISTORICAL REALITY (READ PERONISM), THE NAVY WAS THE BLINDEST OF THE LOT. PERON WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LESS DRASTIC ACTION BUT THE ULTRA-ESTABLISHMENT CHARACTER OF THE NAVY NECESSITATED THE MEASURES TAKEN.

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3. ACCORDING TO CLAUDIO ESCRIBANO OF LA NACION, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE AN ORGANIC ENTITY WITHIN THE CON-

STITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS SINCE MAY THAT THE MILITARY HAD BECOME A CONSTITUTIONAL COMPONENT OF THE STATE, BUT PERON'S LATEST ACTION MAKES THE POINT AGAIN--AND THIS TIME ON THE HIDES OF THE MILITARY. PERON HAS AFFIRMED BY HIS ACTION THAT IT IS THE PRESIDENT WHO GIVES THE ORDERS, AND THE ARMED FORCES WHO OBEY. ESCRIBANO GOES ON TO NOTE THAT MASSERA'S NEW POSITION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN PENETRATED BY A POLITICAL PARTY. MASSERA WAS TO PERON THE LESSER EVIL OF SEVERAL CHOICES. HE WILL SERVE AS A CONTACT POINT BETWEEN THE NAVY AND THE PERONISTS, NOT AS THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE LATTER. KREBS

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